

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-5 have been amended. The revisions to claims 1-3 are supported, for example, at page 6, lines 8-11 in the specification. The revisions to claims 4 and 5 are supported, for example, at page 7, lines 23-33 in the specification. Claims 1-9 are pending, with claims 6-9 being withdrawn from consideration. Applicants request that the non-elected claims be maintained and reinstated if amended to track allowed subject matter of the elected claims.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-5 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,114,803 ("Hosotani"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a cathode ray tube. A panel is provided with a colored layer containing a coloring agent on an outer surface of a face portion. The coloring agent has a density distribution such that a ratio of an emission luminance in a part that exhibits the lowest emission luminance to an emission luminance in a part that exhibits the highest emission luminance is not less than 75% and a ratio of a diffuse reflectance in a part that exhibits the lowest diffuse reflectance to a diffuse reflectance in a part that exhibits the highest diffuse reflectance is not less than 90%. By this configuration, a cathode ray tube with a natural appearance can be achieved by minimizing the perception of a luminance difference or a contrast difference over the entire area of the face portion. See, e.g., page 2, lines 12-14 of the specification.

Hosotani is directed to a cathode ray tube with a transparent film formed on a panel unit. Hosotani discloses that a carbon black or a pigment can be *homogenously* applied to the outer face of a panel to allow for a substantially uniform transmittance. See, e.g., col. 6, lines 2-5. In contrast, claim 1 recites that a colored pigment has a specific density distribution. The specific density distribution of claim 1 would take into consideration, for example, a thickness variation of the panel and differences in viewing angles. See, e.g., page 4, lines 27-32 and page 5, lines 14-20. Applicants therefore submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-5 are also believed to be allowable over the cited reference, for at least the reason that they are dependent upon an allowable base claim.

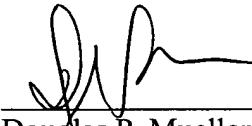
Claims 4 and 5 are even further removed from the cited reference. Both claims 4 and 5 require that a light transmittance contour line be defined on the cathode ray tube. As noted above, Hosotani discloses that a carbon black or a pigment is dispersed homogenously. Therefore, the surface treating cover film of Hosotani will not have a light transmittance contour line as recited in claims 4 and 5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4 and 5 are allowable over the cited reference for these additional reasons as well.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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